



Crop Weather Report

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For the Month Ending:
February 29, 2012

Weather Summary

February brought very mild days and freezing nights to much of Montana with temperatures that ranged from below zero and to the mid 50s. The average low temperature was in the upper 20s to 30 degrees at most reporting stations. West Glacier received the highest amount of precipitation for the month with 2.77 inches of moisture. Outside the Northwest region, stations received 0.01 of an inch to 1.67 inches of moisture in February. High temperatures were in the mid 40s and mid 50s, with the state-wide high temperature of 56 degrees recorded at Fort Benton. A majority of stations reported lows in the single digits and below, the coldest being Wisdom at -24 degrees, followed by West Yellowstone with -20 degrees in February.

The weather outlook for March 5th through March 11th is for above normal temperatures and near normal precipitation on the east of the Great Divide. West of the Divide can expect above normal temperatures and above normal precipitation. Normal temperatures for this period in Montana are highs in the mid 30s to upper 40s, with lows 10 degrees to the mid 20s.

Topsoil moisture adequate and surplus is 47 percent compared with 92 percent last year. Subsoil moisture also declined with 48 percent adequate and surplus compared to 86 percent last year.

According to the NRCS report on February 7, 2012, snow water content state-wide was 90 percent of average and 113 percent of last year. West of the Continental Divide mountain snow water content was 93 percent of average and 113 percent of last year. East of the Continental Divide mountain snow water content was 84 percent of average and 113 percent of last year.

Livestock Report

Grazing conditions are 81 percent open so far this winter, far above last year's 33 percent. Declining feed value in available grazing has increased the need to provide supplemental feed from last month to 91 percent of cattle and 91 percent of sheep. Livestock birthing has continued slightly behind last year with 14 percent calving completed and 6 percent lambing completed.

Range & Livestock Table	This Month	Last Month	Last Year
Livestock Birthing			
Calving Complete	14	3	15
Lambing Complete	6	1	9
Livestock Grazing			
Open	63	64	4
Difficult	18	22	29
Closed	19	14	67
Livestock Receiving Supplemental Feed			
Cattle and Calves	91	87	99
Sheep and Lambs	91	88	99

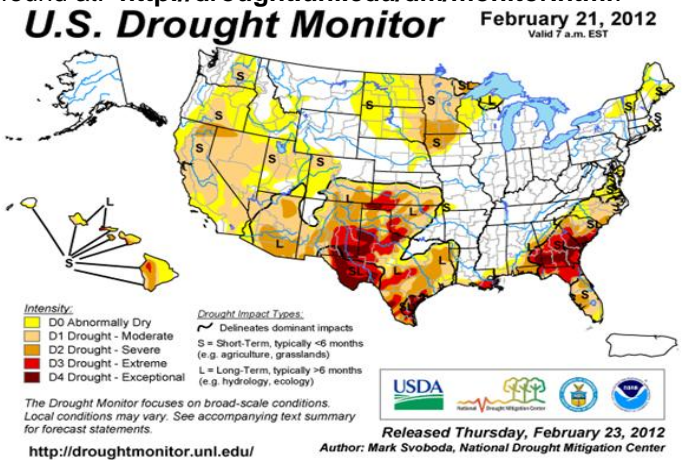
Soil Moisture Table	This Month	Last Month	Last Year
Topsoil Moisture			
Very Short	14	11	1
Short	39	35	7
Adequate	46	53	73
Surplus	1	1	19
Subsoil Moisture			
Very Short	14	13	4
Short	38	34	10
Adequate	44	48	82
Surplus	4	5	4

Field Crops Report

Winter wheat condition is rated 24 percent good to excellent, compared to 71 percent good to excellent from last February as warm but windy conditions continued and snowfall largely melted away within days of accumulating. Wind damage increased to 35 percent moderate to heavy, up from last month's 28 percent and last year's 4 percent.

Crop Condition Table	This Month	Last Month	Last Year
Winter Wheat			
Very Poor	2	2	0
Poor	10	10	4
Fair	64	62	25
Good	22	23	56
Excellent	2	3	15
Winter Wheat – Wind Damage			
None	46	50	72
Light	19	22	24
Moderate	32	25	3
Heavy	3	3	1
Winter Wheat – Freeze and Drought Damage			
None	55	61	77
Light	31	32	19
Moderate	13	6	4
Heavy	1	1	0
Winter Wheat – Protectiveness of Snow Cover			
Very Poor	69	73	0
Poor	23	14	3
Fair	6	8	18
Good	2	4	65
Excellent	0	1	14

The U.S. Drought Monitor map displayed below can be found at: <http://drought.unl.edu/dm/monitor.html>.



THIS INFORMATION IS ALSO AVAILABLE ON THE INTERNET AT: <http://www.nass.usda.gov/mt/>

Completed and Summarized by:
USDA, NASS, Montana Field Office

In conjunction with: MSU Extension Agents
USDA County Service Centers

Weather Information for the month ending 02/29/2012

Station	Temperature				Precipitation February			Precipitation October 1 to date		
	Hi	Low	Avg	DFN	Total	DFN	% Nrm	Total	DFN	% Nrm
NORTHWEST										
Alberton	51	11	31	+4	1.32	+0.61	186	8.24	+3.53	175
Anaconda	46	7	28	+0	0.54	+0.12	129	4.23	+0.92	128
Clinton	45	11	30	+8	1.03	+0.00	100	5.99	-0.65	90
Corvallis	50	14	32	+2	0.56	+0.06	112	4.15	+0.62	118
Creston	44	10	30	+3	0.92	-0.19	83	4.73	-2.08	69
Deer Lodge	46	5	26	-2	0.30	+0.04	115	2.02	+0.08	104
Drummond	46	6	29	+3	0.45	-0.11	80	3.61	-0.10	97
Hamilton	52	12	32	+3	0.77	-0.03	96	6.60	+1.79	137
Kalispell	45	12	31	+5	0.97	-0.10	91	5.46	-1.14	83
Missoula	44	14	31	+4	0.89	+0.18	125	5.90	+1.19	125
Olney	43	-4	25	+3	1.67	-0.22	88	9.86	-0.48	95
Polson	44	15	30	-2	0.90	+0.08	110	5.58	+0.25	105
St Ignatius	47	17	32	+2	1.15	+0.44	162	6.83	+1.85	137
Seeley Lake	45	-4	27	+3	1.72	+0.17	111	12.25	+2.12	121
Sula	46	10	30	+4	0.97	+0.23	131	7.00	+1.98	139
Superior	49	13	34	+2	0.89	-0.17	84	9.97	+3.00	143
Swan Lake	39	6	25	+0	1.32	-0.91	59	7.77	-6.66	54
Thompson Falls	44	18	34	+1	0.96	-0.94	51	11.37	-0.19	98
West Glacier	40	4	28	+2	2.77	+0.72	135	13.31	-0.29	98
NORTH CENTRAL										
Chester	50	-5	26	+5	0.16	-0.08	67	2.54	+0.69	137
Chinook	50	-5	24	+5	0.37	+0.08	128	1.52	-0.95	62
Choteau	50	1	29	+2	0.16	-0.01	94	2.61	+1.20	185
Cut Bank	49	-1	29	+6	0.10	-0.16	38	2.97	+1.10	159
Ft Assinniboine	55	-11	27	+6	0.06	-0.23	21	1.02	-1.51	40
Fort Benton	56	2	29	+2	0.08	-0.27	23	2.65	-0.11	96
Goldbutte	48	-5	25	+2	0.34	+0.05	117	4.05	+1.67	170
Harlem	51	-7	25	+5	0.27	-0.03	90	2.29	+0.23	111
Havre	54	-11	28	+7	0.20	-0.12	63	1.29	-1.08	54
Malta	52	-7	26	+9	0.47	+0.21	181	2.61	+0.28	112
Rudyard	52	-8	27	+4	0.00	-0.16	0	1.58	+0.19	114
Shelby	49	-3	26	+2	0.12	-0.17	41	2.82	+0.59	126
Turner	45	-9	25	+7	0.60	+0.44	375	2.31	+0.47	126
Valier	50	-1	28	+3	0.10	-0.12	45	2.26	+0.47	126
NORTHEAST										
Bredette	47	-11	22	+5	0.32	+0.12	160	2.48	+0.58	131
Culbertson	50	-16	24	+6	0.16	-0.05	76	1.35	-0.82	62
Glasgow	50	-3	25	+7	0.87	+0.63	362	2.69	+0.63	131
Glendive	51	-11	26	+5	0.27	-0.02	93	1.70	-0.89	66
Jordan	51	-12	27	+5	0.41	+0.09	128	2.62	-0.04	98
Nashua	47	-8	24	+2	0.43	+0.26	253	2.34	+0.48	126
Opheim	42	-16	22	+7	0.25	+0.04	119	1.09	-0.64	63
Plentywood	53	-14	23	+5	1.36	+1.09	504	3.10	+0.99	147
St Marie	43	-9	22	+4	0.29	+0.05	121	1.48	-0.58	72
Scobey	46	-9	23	+8	0.16	+0.04	133	2.38	+0.68	140
Sidney	49	-12	26	+5	0.30	-0.02	94	1.24	-1.63	43
Wolf Point	50	-9	25	+6	0.10	-0.13	43	1.53	-0.59	72
CENTRAL										
Cascade	46	2	27	-2	0.44	+0.11	133	3.47	+0.73	127
Grass Range	52	-10	29	+2	0.30	+0.03	111	4.21	+0.98	130
Great Falls	52	4	31	+6	0.30	-0.17	64	3.34	+0.00	100
Harlowton	48	-8	26	-2	0.63	+0.28	180	3.90	+1.32	151
Helena	47	9	30	+4	0.55	+0.21	162	3.19	+0.73	130
Lewistown	48	0	29	+4	0.44	-0.08	85	4.46	+0.42	110
Martinsdale	49	-5	26	-2	0.34	+0.06	121	2.92	+0.36	114
Neihart	50	8	29	+2	0.51	-0.09	85	6.87	+1.92	139
Rogers Pass	47	3	27	+2	0.70	+0.13	123	5.32	+1.33	133
Roundup	50	0	31	+2	0.45	+0.13	141	3.77	+1.19	146
Ryegate	52	-9	25	-1	0.49	+0.22	181	3.04	+0.51	120
Stanford	51	-4	28	+0	0.38	-0.06	86	3.45	+0.03	101
Townsend	48	-1	27	-3	0.29	+0.08	138	1.82	-0.09	95
Valentine	54	-5	28	+5	0.14	-0.14	50	3.17	+0.52	120
Wht Sulphur Spr	49	-2	26	+1	0.15	-0.19	44	1.56	-1.15	58
SOUTHWEST										
Boulder	46	3	28	+2	0.28	+0.02	108	1.97	-0.29	87
Bozeman	47	5	28	+1	0.44	-0.06	88	2.83	-1.09	72
Butte	43	4	26	+5	0.16	-0.27	37	1.52	-1.36	53
Dillon	47	9	29	+2	0.12	-0.06	67	1.38	-0.29	83
Ennis	48	4	28	-1	0.37	-0.04	90	2.72	-0.25	92
Lakeview	43	2	23	+7	0.50	-0.36	58	4.90	-0.58	89
W Yellowstone	39	-20	16	-1	1.67	+0.09	106	9.31	+0.54	106
Wisdom	46	-24	17	+0	0.36	-0.11	77	4.07	+0.73	122
SOUTH CENTRAL										
Billings	52	3	32	+4	0.18	-0.34	35	3.15	-0.86	79
Cooke City	46	-17	18	+1	1.26	-0.39	76	7.62	-2.20	78
Gardiner	44	7	27	-2	1.11	+0.82	383	6.70	+4.20	268
Hardin	53	-4	31	+3	0.25	-0.07	78	3.42	+0.13	104
Huntley	55	-5	30	+4	0.16	-0.28	36	3.33	-0.09	97
Hysham	52	-3	30	+4	0.34	+0.04	113	3.10	+0.05	102
Joliet	55	3	28	+2	0.07	-0.50	12	2.62	-1.58	62
Livingston	51	-1	30	+1	0.28	-0.16	64	2.78	-0.80	78
Nye	50	-2	28	-3	0.55	+0.03	106	5.33	+1.25	131
Rapelje	50	-3	29	+0	0.32	-0.18	64	2.53	-1.09	70
SOUTHEAST										
Albion	49	-10	25	+5	0.35	+0.06	121	1.93	-0.57	77
Baker	49	-10	25	+3	0.46	+0.06	115	2.07	-1.14	64
Broadus	49	-8	28	+2	0.53	+0.16	143	2.46	-0.73	77
Ekalaka	46	-8	25	+1	0.68	+0.19	139	3.03	-1.00	75
Miles City	51	-4	30	+6	0.34	+0.02	106	1.85	-1.07	63
Plevna	49	-13	24	+3	0.49	+0.09	123	2.29	-0.92	71